

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1 1. (Canceled)

1 2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the structuring selected activities
2 comprises:

3 providing at least one of the activity characteristics values as an activity reliability value,
4 wherein the activity reliability value is indicative of at least one of a likelihood that an activity
5 from among the plurality of activities achieves a planned duration and schedule, or a likelihood
6 that an output work product of the activity will be of sufficient quality so as not to impact a
7 schedule of downstream activities from among the plurality of activities; and

8 associating the activity reliability value with at least one of the activities within the
9 plurality of activities and with a corresponding at least one of the activity pre-structured process
10 models.

1 3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the structuring selected activities
2 comprises:

3 providing at least one of the activity characteristics values as a production type value,
4 wherein the production type value is indicative of a speed of an activity from among the plurality
5 of activities in relation to a normal production rate for the activity; and

6 associating the production type value with at least one of the activities within the plurality
7 of activities and with a corresponding at least one of the activity pre-structured process models.

1 4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the structuring the time precedence
2 relationships comprises:

3 providing at least one of the activity relationship values as a time precedence relationship
4 value; and

5 associating the time precedence relationship value with at least one of the time
6 precedence relationships and with a corresponding at least one of the activity relationship pre-
7 structured models.

1 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the structuring the time precedence
2 relationships comprises:

3 providing at least one of the activity relationship values as a sensitivity value; and
4 associating the sensitivity value with at least one of the time precedence relationships and
5 with a corresponding at least one of the activity relationship pre-structured models.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, further comprising:

2 associating a policy value with at least one of the selected activities and with a respective
3 at least one of the activity pre-structured process models, wherein the policy value is indicative of
4 at least one of a manpower availability versus time value, an overtime and flexibility of worker
5 headcount control value, a thoroughness of quality control value, a hiring time control value, or a
6 request for information (RFI) time control value.

1 7. (Canceled)

1 8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein at least one of the time precedence
2 relationships and a corresponding at least one of the activity relationship pre-structured models
3 includes a reliability buffer extending prior to a start time of a downstream one of the plurality of
4 activities and coupled to an upstream one of the plurality of activities.

5

1 9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one of the time
2 precedence relationships is indicative of a relationship between the end of the upstream activity
3 and the start of the reliability buffer.

1 10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the reliability buffer is associated
2 with a corresponding one of the activity relationship values.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, further comprising:
2 associating a policy value with at least one of the time precedence relationships and with
3 a respective at least one of the activity relationship pre-structured models, wherein the policy
4 value is indicative of a buffering policy.

1 12. (Canceled)

1 13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the automatically updating the
2 second activity relationship value comprises: further comprising:

3 automatically updating a reliability buffer extending prior to a start time of the second
4 activity, wherein the updated reliability buffer has at least one of an updated duration value, an
5 updated upstream time precedence relationship value between the updated reliability buffer and
6 an upstream activity, or an updated downstream time precedence relationship between the
7 updated reliability buffer and the second activity.

1 14. (Canceled)

1 15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the automatically updating the
2 second activity relationship value comprises:

3 structuring the first activity relationship pre-structured model with a first reliability buffer
4 having the first activity relationship value, wherein the first reliability buffer is associated with a
5 start time of the first activity;

6 structuring the second activity relationship pre-structured model with a second reliability
7 buffer having the second activity relationship value, wherein the second reliability buffer is
8 associated with a start time of the second activity; and
9 automatically updating the second activity relationship value in response to the updating
10 the first activity relationship value.

1 16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the second activity has a similar
2 activity name as the first activity.

1 17. (Currently Amended) A dynamic planning apparatus comprising:
2 a dynamic planning method (DPM) data processor that provides a plurality of activities
3 having respective activity data that includes at least one of policy data, activity characteristics
4 data, or activity relationship data; and

5 a DPM processor coupled to the DPM data processor to process the activity data, wherein
6 the DPM processor is adapted to automatically update selected second activity data from among
7 the activity data in response to an update of either selected first activity data from among the
8 activity data, wherein the first and second activity data are associate with first and second
9 activities, respectively, wherein the first activity does not include the second activity and the
10 second activity does not include the first activity.

1 18. (Original) The dynamic planning apparatus of claim 17, wherein the DPM processor also
2 provides one or more DPM performance profiles.

1 19. (Currently Amended) The dynamic planning apparatus of claim 17, wherein the DPM data
2 processor includes:

3 a DPM policy data processor that provides the policy data, wherein the policy data is
4 indicative of at least one of a manpower availability versus time value, an overtime and
5 flexibility of worker headcount control value, a thoroughness of quality control value, a hiring
6 time control value, a request for information (RFI) time control value, or a buffering policy; and

7 a DPM activity data processor that provides the activity characteristics data and the
8 activity relationship data.

1 20. (Original) The dynamic planning apparatus of claim 19, wherein the DPM activity data
2 processor includes:

3 a DPM activity characteristics graphical user interface (GUI) that provides the activity
4 characteristics data; and

5 a DPM activity relationship GUI that provides the activity relationship data.

1 21. (Currently Amended) The dynamic planning apparatus of claim 19, wherein the DPM
2 activity data processor includes a dependency structure matrix GUI for entry of at least one of the
3 activity characteristics data or the activity relationship data, wherein the dependency structure
4 matrix includes a vertical axis that lists the plurality of activities and a horizontal axis that lists
5 the plurality of activities.

1 22. (Previously Presented) The dynamic planning apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:

2 one or more conventional project planning models that provide conventional project plan
3 data; and

4 a data transfer processor coupled to the one or more conventional project planning models
5 and further coupled to the DPM data processor to receive the conventional project plan data
6 from the one or more conventional project planning models and to provide formatted data to the
7 DPM data processor.

1 23. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of dynamic project planning,
2 comprising:

3 generating a project list having a plurality of activities, each activity having a respective
4 activity name;

5 structuring selected activities from among the plurality of activities with respective
6 activity pre-structured process models, the activity pre-structured process models having
7 respective activity characteristics values;

8 generating time precedence relationships between the plurality of activities;

9 structuring the time precedence relationships with respective activity relationship pre-
10 structured models, the activity relationship pre-structured models having respective activity
11 relationship values;

12 selecting a first activity having a first activity name from among the plurality of
13 activities, wherein the first activity is associated with a first one of the activity pre-structured
14 process models having a first activity characteristics value, wherein the first activity is associated
15 with a first one of the activity relationship pre-structured models having a first activity
16 relationship value;

17 updating at least one of the first activity characteristics value or the first activity
18 relationship value;

19 automatically identifying, in response to the updating, a second activity having a second
20 activity name from among the plurality of activities, wherein the first activity does not include
21 the second activity and the second activity does not include the first activity, wherein the second
22 activity is associated with a second activity pre-structured process model having a second
23 activity characteristics value, wherein the second activity is associated with a second one of the
24 activity relationship pre-structured models having a second activity relationship value, wherein
25 the second activity characteristics value is the same as the first activity characteristics value or
26 the second activity relationship value is the same as the first activity relationship value; and

27 automatically updating, in response to the updating at least one of the first activity
28 characteristics value or the first activity relationship value, a corresponding at least one of the
29 second activity characteristics value or the second activity relationship value.

1 24. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein the updating comprises updating the first
2 activity relationship value, wherein the automatically updating comprises automatically updating

3 the second activity relationship value in response to the updating the first activity relationship
4 value.

1 25. (New) The method of Claim 24, wherein the automatically updating comprises
2 automatically updating a time buffer associated with the second activity in response to the
3 updating the first activity relationship value.

1 26. (New) The dynamic planning apparatus of claim 17, wherein the DPM processor is
2 adapted to automatically update a second activity relationship value from among the activity data
3 in response to an update of a first activity relationship value from among the activity data.

1 27. (New) The dynamic planning apparatus of claim 26, wherein the DPM processor is
2 adapted to automatically update a time buffer associated with the second activity in response to
3 the update of the first activity relationship value from among the activity data.